

Consumer News

Office of Consumer Affairs



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County of Summit Office of Consumer Affairs Receives National Award

County of Summit Office of Consumer Affairs received the 2009 Achievement in Consumer Education (ACE) Award, from the National Association of Consumer Agency Administrators (NACAA), which currently represents more than 160 government consumer agencies and 50 corporate consumer offices in the United States and abroad. Consumer Affairs Director Cynthia Sich accepted the award on June 29th at NACAA's 34th Annual conference in recognition of the Office's *Financial Education Series*.

In 2008, the Office began a consumer financial education program providing tips on coping with tough economic times. The classroom style presentations were offered at a variety of locations with the largest success being the "Watching Your Wallet Wednesdays" at the Akron-Summit County Public Library. The three part series included *Budgeting and Surviving Debt*, *Weathering a Financial Storm*, and *Foreclosures & Homeownership*. Attendees learned how to create a budget, develop their own personal budgeting style, find unexpected ways to cut their monthly expenses, and what homeowners need to be aware of when they find themselves struggling to make payments or facing foreclosure.

The *Financial Education Series* is designed to help those who are experiencing a temporary reduction in income or looking for ways to save for either short term or long term goals. Consumer Affairs is in the process of updating the financial education series in order to provide the most current information to consumers and will be resuming classes this fall. Classroom schedules will be announced at a later date.

If you are interested in attending the classes or if you would like the office to present to your group, please contact the office at 330-643-2879 or visit www.summit.oh.us/conaffairs.htm.